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years, and through him the hygienic conditions of the capital were revolutionized. He was from 1862 a member of the Prussian chamber and was for twenty-five years chairman of the committee on finance. He was leader of the radical party in the Reichstag. In his public career he opposed centralization, autocracy and war, and advocated all measures for the welfare of the people. He was at one time compelled to leave the University of Berlin owing to his political activity, but his personality and eminence were such that he was recalled to a professorship in 1856, and he was thereafter the preeminent representative of academic freedom.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

The president of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome has transmitted to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the State Department, a copy of resolutions adopted in April, 1921, by the permanent committee of the institute, authorizing the conferring of the title "donating member" upon any person who makes a gift, donation, or contribution to the institute amounting in value to 10,000 Italian lire, which at normal rates of exchange is equivalent to about \$2,000.

The International Institute of Agriculture was established as the direct result of the efforts of David Lubin, a successful merchant of California, with the active support of the King of Italy, who foresaw the advantages which would accrue to agriculture, commerce, and industry from an international clearinghouse for systematically collecting and disseminating official information supplied by the various governments of the world on agricultural production, consumption, movements, surpluses, deficits, and prices of agricultural products, transportation, plant and animal diseases and insect pests, rural credits and insurance, standard of living, wages and hours of labor on farms,

cooperative organizations of farmers, legislation affecting agriculture, and similar information. The international treaty was drafted at Rome on June 7, 1905, and has since been ratified by more than 60 governments.

The institute survived the trying period of the World War and is now entering upon a period of expansion and increased usefulness. Its work benefits all peoples. In accordance with the recent action of the permanent committee, which is made up of delegates from the adhering governments and serves as a board of directors of the International Institute of Agriculture, citizens of the United States and other countries who are in sympathy with the purposes of the institute have an opportunity to contribute to its support and development and to receive permanent recognition therefor as "donating members" by having their names and nationality and the date of their donation inscribed on a marble tablet which will be placed in a conspicuous position in the halls or vestibule of the marble palace occupied by the institute, situated in a beautiful park on an elevation overlooking the Eternal City. Such donations can be made either through the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, or the American delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Italy.

#### THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S GIFTS OF BIG TREES

The trustees and officers of the National Geographic Society announce to members that the society has been continuing its efforts, begun in 1916, to preserve the Big Trees of Sequoia National Park. By a final purchase in April, 1921, of 640 acres of land in Sequoia National Park, these famous trees, oldest and most massive among all living things, the only ones of their kind in the world, have been saved; they will not be cut down and converted into lumber.

Were a monument of human erection to be destroyed, it might be replaced; but had these aborigines of American forests been felled, they would have disappeared forever. The Big Trees could no more be restored than could those other survivals of indigenous American life, the red man and the buffalo, should they become extinct.

Members of the National Geographic Society will recall that, in 1916, Congress had appropriated \$50,000 for the purchase of certain private holdings in Sequoia National Park, but the owners declined to sell for less than \$70,000. In that emergency the National Geographic Society took the first step toward saving the Big Trees by subscribing the remaining \$20,000. Thus 667 acres were purchased. The society's equity in them was conveyed to the government, and this tract became the property, for all time, of the American people.

In 1920, inspired by the first benefaction, three members of the society gave the society sums equivalent to the purchase price of \$21,330 necessary to acquire three more tracts, aggregating 600 acres. Thus the original area of Sequoias saved from destruction was almost doubled.

There still remained one other important private holding in Sequoia National Park amounting to 640 acres. Through this tract, which is covered by a splendid stand of giant sugar-pine and fir, runs the road to Giant Forest. To acquire this approach to the unique forest and to eliminate the last of the private holdings in this natural temple, the National Geographic Society and friends of the society, in 1921, contributed \$55,000, with which the tract was purchased. On April 20, 1921, it was formally tendered in the name of the society, through Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall, to the American people.

This sum of \$55,000 includes \$10,000 from the tax fund of Tulare

County, California, within which the Sequoia National Park is situated, a practical evidence that the people closest to the park are alive to the importance of our government owning the land.

#### FIELD WORK OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution has issued its annual exploration report describing its scientific field work throughout the world in 1920. Twenty-three separate expeditions were in the field carrying on researches in geology, paleontology, zoology, botany, astrophysics, anthropology, archeology, and ethnology, and the regions visited included the Canadian Rockies, fourteen states of the United States, Haiti, Jamaica, four countries of South America, Africa from the Cape to Cairo, China, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Mongolia, Australia, and the Hawaiian Islands.

Secretary Walcott continued his geological work in the Cambrian rocks of the Canadian Rockies in the region northeast of Banff, Alberta. The particular questions involved in the season's research were settled satisfactorily and some beautiful photographs of this wild and rugged region obtained. Other geological field work was successfully carried on in various states of the United States by members of the staff.

In astrophysical research the institution was unusually active. Through the generosity of Mr. John A. Roebling of New Jersey, the Smithsonian solar observing station located on the plain near Calama, Chile, was moved to a near-by mountain peak, where the observations will be unaffected by the dust and smoke, and a new station was established on the Harqua Hala Mountain, Arizona, probably the most cloudless region in the United States. From daily observations of the radiation of the sun at these two widely separated stations, it is hoped to establish definitely the value of the